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# Foreign Crops and MARKETS

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## AUSTRALIA EXPECTED TO SEED LARGE WHEAT ACREAGE

Wheat seedings will soon commence in Australia. Private estimates of the probable wheat acreage vary considerably but average around 10 million acres. The 1943-44 acreage was estimated at around 8 million acres and the announced goal for 1944-45 was 8.5 million.

## ARGENTINE CORN HARVESTING PROGRESSING

The corn harvest is progressing with good outturns reported. The average for the country is expected to be well above normal, with record yields anticipated in some areas.

## UNITED KINGDOM GRAIN CROP CONDITION

The condition of the winter grain crops is reported to be good. Spring grain seeding is expanding and is expected to cover a large area.

## ALGERIA CREATES OFFICE OF TEXTILES

In an effort to closely control Algerian trade in textiles and textile fibers, the Government of the Colony has recently created an Office of Textiles, to purchase and allocate all textile products to the trade. The Office will have three sections, one dealing with textile fabrics, another with the domestic wool industry, and the third with sandals, twine, ropes, and industrial fiber products. Each section is to be fully representative of the trades with which it is concerned, and has as additional members one representative of the Economic Board, one from the General Management of Economic Affairs, and one from the Office of Musulman Affairs. Three other members are nominated by the Governor General to represent the consumers' interests. The other members are elected by their respective trade organizations, and the Director of the Office has the right to be present and to vote at the meetings of the sections, which he alone is empowered to convene.

The Office will act as sole consignee for all textile fibers, including wool in the fleece, and for all textiles and textile products, which it will distribute through the ordinary trade channels. It will operate as a business concern, and will be financially independent and self-supporting, but must submit quarterly balance sheets to a controller appointed by the Governor General. The effect of the present decree is to create a Government monopoly for all the products which it covers, and in so doing, it will impose a check on the tendency of the interested trades to import on a massive scale to meet the heavy demands of the population.

## MEXICAN WEST COAST VEGETABLE SHIPMENTS

Carlot shipments of Mexican West Coast vegetables through the border port of Nogales from the beginning of the current season up to February 29, were as follows, corresponding figures for the 1942-43 season being shown in parentheses: total 2,708 (2,759); tomatoes 2,100 (2,071); green peas 438 (544); green peppers 144 (92); and mixed vegetables 26 (42).

# GRAINS AND GRAIN PRODUCTS

**Gordon P. Boals, in charge**

## DANISH GRAIN PRODUCTION INCREASED

The total production of grain in Denmark in 1943 was reported to be larger than the 1942 crop, with barley and mixed grains the only exceptions to increased outturns. All of the grains except wheat were also somewhat larger than the 1934-1938 average. The bread-grain harvest, as a whole, was not only much above the poor outturn in 1942, when the wheat crop was a virtual failure, but was above average, as well, since gains in the rye crop were large and more than compensated for the below-average wheat production. Following the good harvest, the bread ration was increased slightly.

Large grain outturns were attributed mainly to the favorable growing season. The winter was reported as exceptionally mild allowing cultivation up to the end of the year, and spring planting was possible unusually early. The large yields now reported were not, however, fully indicated by earlier forecasts, as the fertilizer shortage was expected to affect yields.

The wheat production as reported at 6,614,000 bushels is still less than 50 percent of the pre-war average of 13,848,000 bushels. Based on present reports, the average yield per acre would be 54.7 bushels, compared with the previous record of 52.1 bushels in 1938. The rye crop is reported at 19,684,000 bushels, which exceeds previous production and yield records.

The feed grains showed variable results, the 1943 production of oats exceeding both 1942 and average crops, while the barley outturn, though smaller than the 1942 crop, was still considerably above average. According to the reported figures the feed-grain supplies would be larger than normal utilization, and suggest that increased production has more than cancelled the loss of pre-war imports, which played a significant part in the feeding program prior to 1940. Per-acre yields of feed grains appear at a record level on the basis of acreage data, as officially estimated.

DENMARK: Production of specified grains, 1934-1943

| YEAR | WHEAT | RYE | OATS | BARLEY | MIXED GRAINS a/ |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *1,000 bushels* | *1,000 bushels* | *1,000 bushels* | *1,000 bushels* | *Short tons* |
| 1934 .......... | 12,847 | 10,801 | 68,018 | 43,899 | 891,761 |
| 1935 .......... | 14,673 | 11,177 | 71,784 | 50,864 | 939,160 |
| 1936 .......... | 11,267 | 7,841 | 57,616 | 41,256 | 701,063 |
| 1937 .......... | 13,520 | 9,888 | 70,610 | 50,492 | 831,134 |
| 1938 .......... | 16,935 | 11,165 | 78,828 | 62,432 | 876,328 |
| Average ...... | 13,848 | 10,174 | 69,371 | 49,789 | 847,889 |
| 1939 .......... | 15,406 | 9,510 | 69,646 | 57,360 | 764,996 |
| 1940 .......... | 6,944 | 10,714 | 62,448 | 53,234 | 784,838 |
| 1941 .......... | 6,981 | 12,204 | 49,604 | 42,255 | 628,311 |
| 1942 .......... | 735 | 16,141 | 68,894 | 63,842 | 1,025,139 |
| 1943 .......... | 6,614 | 19,684 | 71,650 | 58,330 | 959,001 |

From official and unofficial data. a/ Mixture of bread grains, barley, oats, and pulse.

# RICE BECOMES IMPORTANT CROP IN CHILE

Rice is now one of the principal cereal crops in Chile, even though a few years ago it was not cultivated in that country. The crop now being harvested is forecast at 5,880,000 bushels, whereas 10 years ago, when experiments first were being made in rice cultivation, only 24,000 bushels were grown. This year's estimated production will represent an 18-percent increase over the revised figure of 5,388,000 bushels last year, the third succeeding year in which a record crop was produced.

Rice exports amounted to 50,723,000 pounds during 1943. This total is a large increase over the 8,518,000 pounds shipped in 1942, when rice was first exported. Over half of last year's exports were sent to Cuba, and a large percentage of the remainder to Peru and Bolivia. It is estimated that about 60 million pounds will be available for export in 1944 from the large carry-over and increased production.

Yields of over 80 bushels per acre in Chile are the largest of any in the Western Hemisphere and rank among the highest in the world. These high yields are accounted for by cultivation on new soil, lack of disease and insects, plentiful water supply, and favorable climatic conditions in the rice-growing districts.

Chile's rice production could be greatly increased in the future, because over 400,000 acres of new land, much of it swampy, are available for growing rice. Furthermore, several rivers flowing the year around supply ample water for new irrigation projects. Chile's future policy with regard to rice production, however, probably will be determined by world economic conditions. Increased cultivation may depend upon whether more rice is consumed in Chile and whether production costs will be too high to compete in foreign markets if Oriental rice again becomes available after the war.

CHILE: Rice production, trade, and apparent domestic utilization, averages 1926-1935, annual 1936-1944

| YEAR | PRODUCTION ROUGH | PRODUCTION MILLED a/ | IMPORTS | EXPORTS | APPARENT DOMESTIC UTILIZATION |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Million pounds* | *Million pounds* | *Million pounds* | *Million pounds* | *Million pounds* |
| Average: | | | | | |
| 1926-1930 | 0 | 0 | 46,005 | 111 | 45,894 |
| 1931-1935 | b/ 29 | b/ 848 | 28,983 | 11 | 29,820 |
| Annual: | | | | | |
| 1936 | 269 | 7,868 | 35,561 | 3 | 43,426 |
| 1937 | 637 | 18,632 | 38,970 | 1 | 57,601 |
| 1938 | 1,372 | 40,131 | 26,596 | 1 | 66,726 |
| 1939 | 1,621 | 47,414 | 18,531 | 5 | 65,940 |
| 1940 | 2,595 | 75,904 | 879 | 7 | 76,776 |
| 1941 | 2,206 | 64,526 | 158 | 8,518 | 56,166 |
| 1942 | 3,008 | 87,984 | c/ | 18,635 | 69,300 |
| 1943 | 5,388 | 157,599 | c/ | 50,723 | d/ 106,900 |
| 1944 e/ | 5,880 | 172,000 | - | - | - |

Compiled from official sources. a/ Equivalent to 65 percent of rough rice. b/ 3-year average. c/ Not available. d/ Includes large carry-over. e/ Preliminary.

# VEGETABLE OILS AND OILSEEDS . . .

**Fred J. Rossiter, in charge**

## CANADIAN SOYBEAN DELIVERIES BELOW EXPECTATIONS

Canada's commercial supply of soybeans promises to be smaller during the 1943-44 crop year than in 1942-43 despite the increase in acreage, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Substantially larger amounts are being retained for feeding, especially in Ontario where the bulk of the crop is produced. There is also evidence that a considerable portion of the acreage was not harvested for beans.

Of the 55,400 acres planted in 1943, about 47,000 were in Ontario. A recent survey of that Province indicates that only 63 percent of the planted area was harvested and that approximately 35 percent of the beans will be fed to livestock.

The total quantity of soybeans inspected by the Board of Grain Commissioners in the eastern division between August 1, 1943, and February 7, 1944, was 90,000 bushels, and during the same period 1,500 bushels were inspected in the western division. Only a small percentage of these deliveries has been available for the production of oil. Some soybeans are being used for human consumption, including those salted as a substitute for peanuts.

In order to keep domestic crushers operating, it has been necessary to import small quantities of soybeans from the United States. This is probably one of the reasons for increasing the 1944 goal from 55,100 to 90,000 acres. A price of $1.96 per bushel for No. 1 soybeans, basis Toronto, was established as a floor level for the 1942 and 1943 crops. This price nets the grower about $1.86 at the shipping point.

Canada has produced soybeans for several years, but it is only since the war began that acreage has expanded sufficiently to make possible a commercial crop of importance. The area has been centered chiefly in southern Ontario, although experimental growing has taken place also in Manitoba and parts of British Columbia.

CANADA: Soybean acreage, production, and yield, 1936-1943

| YEAR | AREA | PRODUCTION a/ | YIELD PER ACRE |
|---|---|---|---|
| | *Acres* | *Bushels* | *Bushels* |
| 1936 | 11,217 | 247,984 | 22 |
| 1937 | 8,602 | 159,244 | 18 |
| 1938 | 9,250 | 203,500 | 22 |
| 1939 | 9,786 | 215,292 | 22 |
| 1940 | 10,600 | 233,200 | 22 |
| 1941 | 10,900 | 216,900 | 20 |
| 1942 | 44,000 | 925,000 | 21 |
| 1943 | 50,400 b/ | 907,250 | 18 |

Compiled from official sources. a/ Bushels of 60 pounds. b/ Revised.

## SESAME-SEED CROP IN NICARAGUA REDUCED

The 1943-44 crop of sesame seed in Nicaragua (harvested in December and January) is estimated at 7.5 to 8 million pounds compared with 10 million last year. Approximately 300,000 pounds of seeds are needed annually to supply oil for local consumption. An additional 200,000 pounds will be reserved for planting. Quantities sold for export and awaiting shipment to the United States on January 31 amounted to 6 million pounds. Prices ranged from 6 to 6.05 cents (United States) per pound, f.o.b. Nicaraguan port. The remaining surplus available for export was estimated at 1.5 to 2 million pounds of seeds.

Prices received for the 1943-44 crop are not regarded as favorable in view of increased costs of production and handling and the relatively low yields obtained. Plans for advancing production loans on the next harvest were being considered in January by the National Bank of Nicaragua, but officials were uncertain as to whether farmers should be encouraged to expand production of sesame seed as in the past 2 years or give preference to peanuts, corn, rice, and beans. Cottonseed production is restricted under the terms of a United States-Nicaraguan cotton-purchase agreement, which permits the planting of only 5,100 acres.

## CUBAN VEGETABLE OIL IMPORTS REMAIN LOW

Imports of edible vegetable oils into Cuba during January and February 1944 were about 90 percent less than for the first 2 months of 1943. Stocks of all edible oils have increased from 9.9 million pounds on January 1, 1944, to 10.4 million on February 1, and no substantial change is indicated for March 1. The improved stock situation is attributed to the fact that arrivals of domestic peanut oil on the market have equaled or exceeded the consumption rate for several months.

This situation may become less favorable in coming months, however, when the peanut crushing mills have exhausted most of their supplies of peanuts, unless larger imports of other oils are made. Production of peanut oil from the local crop is not expected to exceed 20 million pounds, whereas consumption requirements for edible vegetable oils in 1944 are estimated at 25 to 30 million pounds. The present rate of imports would supply less than 2.5 million pounds in 1944. Imports in 1943 and in recent months consisted largely of soybean oil from the United States.

A castor-bean crushing plant that began operations on a commercial basis about the middle of 1943 has a production capacity of 5.5 million pounds of beans per year and expects to crush 2 to 2.5 million in 1944. Cuban requirements equal 1.5 million pounds.

The high prices of vegetable oils and the large volume of lard imports have influenced some substitution of lard for vegetable oils. Imports of lard in January and February were reported as slightly less than that consumed, but stocks, estimated at around 19 million pounds on March 1, are sufficient for about 3 months' requirements.

The inedible fats situation remained critical. Soap manufacturers reduced their utilization of tallow by 25 percent in February to conserve their depleted stocks. A decree of March 1, 1944, extends the ban on soap exports to include toilet soap as well as laundry soap, which has been subject to an export embargo since August 5, 1943.

# FRUITS, VEGETABLES, AND NUTS . . .

Fred A. Motz, in charge

## MEXICAN LIMES DAMAGED BY BLACK FLY

Limes are reported as having been heavily damaged by citrus black fly in the State of Colima, one of the largest producing areas in Mexico. There are signs that attempts to parasitize the black fly last summer have been successful, but some time must elapse before control is sufficient to relieve the situation. For the current year it is thought that tree damage is likely to reduce the amount of fruit available for export and for byproducts manufacture in the infested zone.

## ESTIMATED ALMOND PRODUCTION IN IRAN HIGHER IN 1944

Almond production in Iran for the year ending March 21, 1944, is estimated at 6,400 tons of shelled and 1,600 unshelled almonds compared with 4,800 tons shelled and 1,200 tons unshelled for the preceding year, according to a recent report from Tehran.

The principal almond merchants in Iran report that the absence of foreign markets has doubled the domestic consumption, which normally in only about one-eighth of the production. Stocks are larger than usual, but accurate estimates are not available. Prices have declined during recent months, in the light of the larger supply, with shelled almonds in Tehran ranging from 44 to 48 cents a pound and unshelled in southern Iran at about 12 cents a pound during February.

## PRODUCTION OF SOUTH AFRICAN RAISINS INCREASED

Production of raisins in South Africa reached an all-time record of 25,084,000 pounds in 1943 compared with 25,044,000 pounds in 1942. The production of other dried fruits decreased, however, so that the total for all dried fruits was somewhat lower in 1943 than in 1942. Raisin production in 1944 is expected to be about the same as in 1943.

RAISINS AND SULTANAS: Production in South Africa, by types, 1941-1943

| TYPE | 1941 | 1942 | 1943 a/ |
|---|---|---|---|
| | *Pounds* | *Pounds* | *Pounds* |
| Orange River Sultanas | 5,801,822 | 7,843,055 | 7,382,063 |
| Western Province Sultanas | 1,322,571 | 1,105,716 | 1,092,801 |
| Bleached Sultanas | 391,851 | 1,329,229 | 1,024,672 |
| Raisins | 11,451,615 | 13,523,796 | 14,206,214 |
| Stalk Raisins | 436,458 | 361,270 | 393,857 |
| Muscatels | 276,871 | 382,621 | 222,306 |
| Thompsons Seedless | 310,954 | 498,582 | 761,947 |
| Total | 19,992,142 | 25,044,269 | 25,083,860 |

Compiled from consular reports. a/ Preliminary.

## LIVESTOCK, MEATS, AND WOOL . . .

Arthur T. Thompson, in charge

### LAMBING IN NEW ZEALAND BELOW RECENT YEARS

The average lambing percentage during the current season (1943-44) is estimated to be 88 percent, according to a recent report of the New Zealand Department of Agriculture. This percentage has been increasing in the past five seasons but is expected to be 4 percent below the 1942-43 season, when it reached the record of 91 percent. Lamb mortality in the spring of 1943 was expected to be higher than usual, owing to abnormal weather conditions.

The total number of lambs born in the 1943-44 season is now expected to reach 17,637,000 head. This figure is below that of the past three seasons but larger than the number born in the 1938-39 and 1939-40 seasons. In view of the fact that the numbers of sheep shorn and of lambs docked have increased considerably in the past five seasons, it can be expected that the number of breeding-ewes has also increased since 1941-42 and that the numbers of lambs born in 1943-44 may be somewhat larger than the estimate given in the table below.

NEW ZEALAND: Lambing returns for 1943, with comparisons

| SEASON BEGINNING MAY 1 | NUMBER OF BREEDING EWES | ESTIMATED AVERAGE PERCENTAGE OF LAMBING | ESTIMATED NUMBER OF LAMBS | ACTUAL NUMBER OF LAMBS DOCKED |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Head* | *Percent* | *Head* | *Head* |
| NORTH ISLAND: | | | | |
| 1938 ....... | 10,735,829 | 80.11 | 8,600,625 | 9,034,385 |
| 1939 ....... | 10,889,802 | 84.40 | 9,190,794 | 9,476,647 |
| 1940 ....... | 10,917,684 | 89.01 | 9,717,488 | 10,348,649 |
| 1941 ....... | 11,268,384 | 90.74 | 10,224,786 | 10,593,291 |
| 1942 .......a/ | 11,268,384 | 89.95 | 10,134,505 | 10,835,934 |
| 1943 .......a/ | 11,268,384 | 87.18 | 9,823,748 | b/ |
| SOUTH ISLAND: | | | | |
| 1938 ....... | 8,928,037 | 90.10 | 8,044,540 | 7.914.594 |
| 1939 ....... | 9,070,497 | 86.29 | 7,826,601 | 7,752,922 |
| 1940 ....... | 8,809,973 | 91.69 | 8,078,518 | 8.037,123 |
| 1941 ....... | 8,762,549 | 91.60 | 8,026,076 | 7,929,999 |
| 1942 .......a/ | 8,762,549 | 93.34 | 8,179,674 | 8,028,958 |
| 1943 .......a/ | 8,762,549 | 89.16 | 7,813,548 | b/ |
| DOMINION | | | | |
| 1938 ....... | 19,663,866 | 84.64 | 16,645,165 | 16,948,979 |
| 1939 ....... | 19,960,299 | 85.26 | 17,017,395 | 17,229.569 |
| 1940 ....... | 19,727,657 | 90.21 | 17,796,006 | 18,385,772 |
| 1941 ....... | 20,030,933 | 91.11 | 18,250,862 | 18.523,290 |
| 1942 .......a/ | 20,030,933 | 91.43 | 18,314,179 | 18.864,892 |
| 1943 .......a/ | 20,030,933 | 88.05 | 17,637,296 | b/ |

Compiled from official sources.

a/ 1941 figures carried forward due to lack of later estimates. b/ Not available.

## FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES

EXCHANGE RATES: Average value in New York of specified currencies, week ended March 11, 1944 with comparisons a/

| COUNTRY | MONETARY UNIT | YEAR 1943 | MONTH 1942 FEB. | MONTH 1943 FEB. | MONTH 1944 JAN. | MONTH 1944 FEB. | WEEK ENDED 1944 FEB. 26 | WEEK ENDED 1944 MCH. 4 | WEEK ENDED 1944 MCH. 11 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Cents | Cents | Cents | Cents | Cents | Cents | Cents | Cents |
| Argentina b/ .... | Paper peso | 29.77 | 29.77 c/ | 29.77 | 29.77 | 29.77 | 29.77 | 29.77 | 29.77 |
| Australia ....... | Pound .... | 322.80 | 321.50 | 322.80 | 322.80 | 322.80 | 322.80 | 322.80 | 322.80 |
| Brazil d/ ....... | Cruzeiro . | 5.13 | 5.14 | 5.13 | 5.13 | 5.13 | 5.13 | 5.13 | 5.13 |
| British India ... | Rupee .... | 30.12 | 30.12 | 30.12 | 30.12 | 30.12 | 30.12 | 30.12 | 30.12 |
| Canada e/ ....... | Dollar ... | 89.98 | 88.42 | 90.04 | 89.55 | 89.59 | 89.52 | 89.37 | 89.37 |
| Colombia f/ ..... | Peso ..... | 57.26 | 57.00 | 57.22 | 57.28 | 57.28 | 57.28 | 57.28 | 57.28 |
| Mexico .......... | Peso ..... | 20.58 | 20.56 | 20.57 | 20.58 | 20.58 | 20.58 | 20.58 | 20.58 |
| New Zealand ..... | Pound .... | 324.20 | 322.78 | 323.30 | 324.42 | 324.42 | 324.42 | 324.42 | 324.42 |
| South Africa .... | Pound .... | 398.00 | 398.00 | 398.00 | 398.00 | 398.00 | 398.00 | 398.00 | 398.00 |
| United Kingdom .. | Pound .... | 403.50 | 403.50 | 403.50 | 403.50 | 403.50 | 403.50 | 403.50 | 403.50 |
| Uruguay g/ | Peso ..... | 52.86 | 52.79 | 52.80 | 52.95 | 52.94 | 52.95 | 52.95 | 52.95 |

Federal Reserve Board.

a/ Noon buying rates for cable transfers.

b/ Official, regular exports. The special export rate of 23.70 cents, reported beginning March 27, 1941, applies to exchange derived from certain minor exports (e.g. dairy products) to certain countries (e.g. United States). such exchange formerly having been sold in the free market. Quotations nominal.

c/ Free. Quotation of free rate discontinued after February 1, 1943.

d/ Free. Prior to November 1, 1942, the official designation of the Brazilian currency unit was the milreis. Since April 10, 1939, 30 percent of the exchange derived from exports must be turned over at the official buying rate of 6.06 cents, the weighted average value of the milreis being 5.41 cents in 1943, the value of the cruzeiro 5.41 February, 1944 and 5.41 cents in the week ended March 11, 1944. Quotations nominal.

e/ Free. Most transactions between Canada and the United States take place at the official buying and selling rates.

f/ Quotations nominal.

g/ Noncontrolled. Quotations nominal.

EXCHANGE RATES: Average value in New York of Chinese, Japanese, and some European currencies during last full months for which rates were available, and current official rates

| COUNTRY | UNIT | NEW YORK RATES a/ MONTH | NEW YORK RATES a/ RATE | CURRENT |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | Cents | Cents |
| Belgium | Belga | April 1940 | 16.89 | b/ 16.00 |
| Denmark | Krone | March 1940 | 19.31 | 20.88 |
| France | Franc | May 1940 | 1.85 | c/ 2.00 |
| Germany | Reichsmark | May 1941 | d/ 39.97 | 40.00 |
| Greece | Drachma | September 1940 | d/ 0.66 | 0.67 |
| Italy | Lira | May 1941 | d/ 5.09 | 5.26 |
| Netherlands | Guilder | April 1940 | 53.08 | 53.08 |
| Norway | Krone | March 1940 | 22.71 | 22.86 |
| Portugal | Escudo | May 1941 | 4.00 | e/ 6.67 |
| Spain | Peseta | May 1941 | d/ 9.13 | 9.13 |
| Sweden | Krona | May 1941 | 23.84 | 23.81 |
| Switzerland | Franc | May 1941 | 23.20 | 23.20 |
| China | Yuan (Shanghai) | June 1941 | d/ 5.34 | f/ 5.31 |
| Japan | Yen | June 1941 | 23.44 | 23.44 |

---

a/ Noon buying rates for cable transfers as reported by Federal Reserve Board. Last daily rate reported on April 8, 1940, for the Danish and Norwegian kroner; on May 9, 1940, for the belga and guilder; on June 15, 1940, for the French franc; on October 25, 1940, for the drachma; on June 14, 1941, for the other above-mentioned European currencies; and on July 26, 1941, for the yen and yuan (Shanghai).

b/ Based on German official rate for United States dollar.

c/ Based on German official rate for United States dollar in occupied area; in unoccupied area, official rate of 2.28 cents.

d/ Quotations nominal.

e/ Rate for currency; for checks, 4.09 cents to the escudo.

f/ Rate set August 18, 1941, by Chinese Stabilization Board.